11. State Bank of India
12. Federal Bank
13. UTI Bank
14. Chipko Grameena Bank
15. ICICI Bank

Wireless Planning Cell of DoT

3599. SHRI JAYANTA BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the path forward of wireless Planning Cell of DoT on CDMA Spectrum;

(b) whether Government plan to give 5 Mhz to each basic service licencee in all licensed areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) Basic Telephone Service Providers are permitted spectrum for CDMA based WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) service in the frequency band 824-844 MHz paired with 869-889 MHz, to be earmarked on first come first served basis. Spectrum upto 5 MHz + 5 MHz can be earmarked to each Basic Telephone Service Provider based on their requirements. Coordination of requirements may be necessary to protect existing users. Basic Telephone Service Providers, on installing the Point of Presence in a SDCA (Short Distance Charging Area), become eligible for spectrum upto 2.5 + 2.5 MHz in that SDCA. Further earmarking of spectrum is subject to their fulfilling the roll out obligations, as stipulated in the License Agreement and availability of spectrum.

New Tariff Regime

3600. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA :
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has postponed implementation of the new tariff regime and inter-connect user charges;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government plan to bring a new revised tariff regime; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when the new/revised tariff would come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, *vide* the 24th Amendment to the Telecom Tariff Order (TTO), 1999, had announced new tariffs (notified on 24.01.2003),. which were to come into effect from 1st April, 2003. These have now been deferred to 1st May. 2003.

(b) Within the ceilings given by TRAI, the service providers were expected to give alternative tariff packages, which were to be shown to TRAI and the consumers informed of the choices available to them well in advance of their implementation. The various alternative tariff plans were received from the service providers by TRAI only between the 10th and 24th of March, 2003, and required detailed consideration of TRAI. The Service Providers also had to file tariff plans in consonance with the Interconnection Usage Charges (IUC) regime before the TRAI in line with the provisions of the 24th Amendment to the TTO. Since the proposals from the service providers came up to 24.03.2003, the TRAI decided to defer implementation of new tariffs to 1.5.2003, giving both the service providers and consumers further time.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. As per the TRAI Act of 1997, as amended in 2000, the power of fixing tariffs for telecom services is mandated to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India only. The Government no longer fixes tariff for telecom services in the country. The tariffs of the service providers will come into effect from 1.5.2003.

Telecom Tariff Hike

3601. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has refused to rollback the telecom tariff hike announced a couple of months back;